

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A circuit board comprising a mechanism for
2 provably disabling the circuit board, the mechanism comprising:
signal means for conducting a signal between the mechanism and the circuit
4 board;
separation means for facilitating detachment of the mechanism from the circuit
6 board; and
identification means for identifying the mechanism;
8 wherein the circuit board becomes at least partly non-functional if the mechanism
is detached from the circuit board.

2. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said signal means
2 comprises a wire trace.

3. (Original) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said separation means
2 comprises one or more gaps between the mechanism and the circuit board.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said
2 identification means comprises an identification circuit.

6. (Previously Presented) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said
2 identification means comprises a visible identification code.

7. (Previously Presented) The circuit board of claim 1, wherein said
2 identification means is protected from being easily manipulated.

8. (Cancelled)

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31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) A circuit board assembly configured for
2 provably disabling the circuit board, the assembly comprising:
a circuit board comprising a tab having:
4 a proximate end connected to the circuit board;
a distal end opposite the proximate end; and
6 two opposing sides separated from the assembly by gaps;
an identification module situated on the tab; and
8 a signal conductor extending from the circuit board to the tab and configured to
convey a signal when the assembly is powered;
10 wherein removal of the tab at or near the proximate end so as to separate said
identification module from the assembly causes the signal conductor ~~trace~~ to be broken.

2 35. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
wherein the circuit board assembly cannot be powered if the signal conductor is broken.

2 36. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
wherein one or more operating functions of the circuit board become inoperable when the
signal conductor is broken.

2 37. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
wherein the identification module comprises a hologram.

2 38. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
wherein the identification module comprises a barcode.

2 39. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
wherein the identification module comprises a sequence of characters.

2 40. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
wherein the identification module comprises a chip.

2 41. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
further comprising an integrated circuit connected to the signal conductor.

2 42. (Previously Presented) The circuit board assembly of claim 34,
wherein the signal conductor does not extend to the distal end of the tab.

2 43. (New) A circuit board assembly comprising:
a signal conductor; and
a key removably connected to the circuit board assembly and comprising:
4 an identification module; and
 a portion of said signal conductor;
6 wherein while said key is removably connected to the circuit board assembly a

plurality of gaps are defined between the circuit board assembly and said key; and

8 wherein removal of the key from the circuit board assembly causes said portion of
the signal conductor to be broken.

44. (New) A circuit board comprising a key removably connected to
2 the circuit board, the key comprising:

 a portion of a signal conductor configured to conduct a signal between the key
4 and the circuit board; and

 an identification module configured to identify the key;

6 wherein the key is removably connected to a first portion of the circuit board but
is separated from other portions of the circuit board by a plurality of gaps;

8 wherein the gaps facilitate detachment of the key from the circuit board; and

 wherein one or more functions of the circuit board become at least partly non-
10 functional, including conduction of a signal by the signal conductor, if the key is
detached from the circuit board.